Conference on Rural Energy Schemes linked with Rural Development Programmes

*218. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a conference on rural energy schemes being linked with other rural development programmes was convened by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the names of the experts who participated in its deliberations; and

(c) the decision taken at the conference and action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A review Meeting on the Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme (IREPP) being implemented by Planning Commission, was convened on 25.10.1991.

(b) This Meeting was attended by representatives from the nodal departments in the States and UTs responsible for implementing the Integrated Rural Energy Planning Programme.

(c) The major recommendations of the Meeting included the following:

Strengthening the coordinatoin mechanism between the different Departments connected with rural energy supply schemes and the rural development programme; ensuring active involvement of local bodies, including panchayats, in the implementation of the programme; ensuring active participation in the programme of beneficiaries alongwith local professionals and institutions, officials and non-officials; expansion of the programme to cover more blocks in a phased manner; intensification of the programme in each IREP block for meeting the basic needs of cooking, heating and lighting etc. The recommendations of the Review Meeting will be taken into account while formulating the programme for the Eighth Plan.

Computer Training Centres for Poor Boys

*219. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that majority of institutions which provide computer training are private and charge as much as Rs. 20,000/- per year from each student for a three year course;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start some training centres to impart training to students belonging to poor and middle class families; if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c) The majority of institutions which provide computer training are in the private sector. However, the programmes conducted by them are primarily of a short-term nature and mostly limited upto 1½ year duration. Some private institutions conduct a three years course and charge fees according to their own norms.

There are a number of Government aided institutions which are conducting computer courses at degree, diploma and certificate levels. The admission to these courses are made on the basis of merit and open to all sections of the society. The fees for these courses is significantly less than those charged by private institutions. In addition, educational loan facilities are also available for students belonging to poor and middle class families for pursuing computer courses.